

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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FOR SCS/VO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, LA

SUBJECT: NEW LAO PASSPORT DOCUMENTS

REF: VIENTIANE 282 STATE 042423 (NOTAL)

1. CONSUL SAW HEAD OF NEWLY CREATED CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION OF MFA SALY KHAMSY FEBRUARY 24 TO REQUEST OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM PDRL THAT UNDER CURRENT LAO LAW OR PROCEDURES NEW LAO PASSPORTS ARE ISSUED ONLY TO LAO NATIONALS (SEE STATE 042423).

2. SALY NOTED HE HAD TAKEN OVER CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION OF MFA ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO, AND STATED HE WAS NOW WORKING ON PROBLEM OF NEW LAO PASSPORT DOCUMENTS. SALY SAID THAT MFA IS IN PROCESS OF DESIGNING AND HAVING PRINTED DEFINITIVE LAO DIPLOMATIC, SERVICE AND ORDINARY PASSPORTS. SALY TOLD CONSUL THAT SPECIMENT COPIES OF ALL THREE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THEIR OFFICES WERE PROVISIONAL. SALY CONFIRMED THAT FORMER LAO TOURIST (ORDINARY) PASSPORT WAS NO LONGER VALID. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS ISSUED BY FORMER REGIME WAS MORE CONFUSED. LAO DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS NOW BEING SENT OUT ON MISSIONS ABROAD ARE BEING GIVEN THE NEW PROVISIONAL

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DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, SALY UNDERSTOOD THAT LAO DIPLOMATS

ALREADY SERVING ABROAD BEFORE THE PROVISIONAL NEW DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS WERE PRINTED STILL HAD THEIR OLD "ROYAUME DU LAOS" DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. HE HOPED TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION BY PROVIDING LAO MISSIONS ABROAD WITH THE DEFINITIVE NEW PASSPORTS, WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN PRINTED. HE PROMISED TO SEND A SPECIMEN COPY OF THESE NEW DOCUMENTS TO ALL EMBASSIES WHEN THE NEW PASSPORTS ARE READY. IN THE MEANTIME, IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN DEPARTMENT'S CIRCULAR AIRGRAM (SEE STATE 042423) THAT FORMER LAO DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS AS WELL AS NEW PROVISIONAL LAO DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS ARE CURRENTLY VALID.

3. SALY INFORMED CONSUL THAT DEFINITIVE NEW LAO TOURIST PASSPORT, NOW BEING DESIGNED, WOULD HAVE LINE INDICATING BEARER'S NATIONALITY. HE STATED THAT LAO DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE PASSPORTS WOULD NOT SHOW BEARER'S NATIONALITY, BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE ISSUED ONLY TO LAO NATIONALS. SALY SAID HE WOULD DRAFT MFA NOTE TO THAT EFFECT TO MEET U.S. VISA LAW REQUIREMENT.
DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
CORCORAN

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